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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT The Volksausschüsse and the SED Partei-Aktivs System

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3. The members of the Partei-Aktiv have been instructed to screen the party for particularly well qualified experts in certain administrative fields; these experts are to receive thorough indoctrination in small groups within the party. In addition, in many cities the SED has been given lists of persons who, though not members of the SED, have cooperated well with the SMA. It is expected that such persons will become members of the Volksausschüsse when the latter are fully activated. The non-Communists approached thus far have almost all been skilled workers or professional men.

4. The SED has attempted to inject new interest in the Volksausschüsse, which had shown a tendency toward apathy upon the completion of the Volksbegehren campaign. In his speech at the meeting of the SED Executive Committee, 28 July, Walter Ulbricht said: "A few Volksausschüsse have already begun to discuss the Two Year Plan and the Half Year Plan. The economic committee of the Volksrat has already taken a stand in favor of the Half Year Plan, and there is an official directive from the economic committee ordering the Volksausschüsse to busy themselves with the problems of the Half Year Plan. We are at the Volksausschüsse in a few areas have discussed it in a exemplary manner.....In all Kreis Volksausschüsse and local Volksausschüsse everywhere there should be discussion of the Two Year Plan."

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5.

6.

In addition, Volksausschüsse offices have received teletype equipment even though the police are still suffering from a serious shortage of teletypewriters. SED leaders in Thuringia state frankly that "the Volksausschüsse are in the future soviets".

agreement has not yet been reached on the persons who are to be placed as puppets in the top positions in the Volksausschüsse. The SED wishes to retain control through its cadre section, while the [redacted] wishes to install completely unknown persons in the Volksausschüsse as straw men.

7. It is reported that Marshal Sokolovsky spoke at a meeting of the chairmen of the state "Volksaktionsausschüsse" of the Russian zone in Dresden in early September 1948. Sokolovsky is reported to have

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said that the "Volksaktionsausschüsse" are to prepare the ground for a revolution; first steps are removal of all unreliable elements from the SED and transfer of the remains of private business to state ownership. The SED is to be an activist party rather than a mass party. Leading anti-Communist SED members who are to be expelled from the Party will be brought to court and convicted of criminal offenses. This is to furnish a basis for their imprisonment and prevent their becoming popular heroes or martyrs. Individuals whose property is to be confiscated must be arrested and imprisoned; this is to prevent flight to Berlin or the western zones and continued anti-Communist activity there. Adult members of their families are also to be imprisoned. All prisoners will be denied lawyers and legal process, and will be transferred unobtrusively to Russian prisons. (Comment: This is the only mention of "Volksaktionsausschüsse" to date. It appears likely from the subject matter involved that this was a purely SED meeting and that the term "Volksaktionsausschüsse" is a ~~synonym~~ for Partei-Aktiv.)

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